Warwick East State School gets its first female principal

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Warwick East School principal Marina Clarke and head of Special Education Tracey Mekitarian. Picture: Candyce Braithwaite

SHE'S the first lady to ever take the reins at Warwick East State School.

Marina Clarke will stand in this year while long-standing principal Warren Elder takes a year's leave.

"It's really exciting to be starting here," Ms Clarke said.

"I think it's interesting I'm the first female in the school's 164-year history."

Ms Clarke was previously the principal at Moonie for 17 years and at Glen Aplin on the Granite Belt last year.

"I've always known a bit about Warwick, I had a friend who was really into the rodeo," she said.

Another fresh face added to Warwick East this year is Tracey Mekitarian who will be head of Special Education.

Ms Mekitarian brings more than 10 years experience in supporting schools on the Darling Downs to work effectively with students with disabilities.

"Special education is extremely important," she said.

"Warwick East has a great special education facility and I'm excited to join the team."

East is restructuring the Special Education Program to align with the Disability Standards Act to provide a more inclusive approach with collaborative planning in teaching teams that allow for more flexible teaching practices to cater to all diverse learners.

As a part of the new state school's endeavour to support schools to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students, East has been appointed Alicia McMillan as master teacher.

"There will be a continued focus on supporting our teachers," Ms Clarke said.

"Sometimes as a primary school teacher you can feel isolated.

"But this year there will be a lot more team planning and teachers will all work together."

Warwick East is in its second year of implementation of Positive Behaviour for Learning (formerly known as School Wide Positive Behaviour Support). This provides a whole community approach to teaching and encouraging positive behaviour.

The school also offers a range of extra-curricular activities such as active after school sport, an environmental centre and a strong instrumental music program and choir.

Warwick East is open this week for inquiries and new enrolments from Prep to Year 6 are welcome.

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